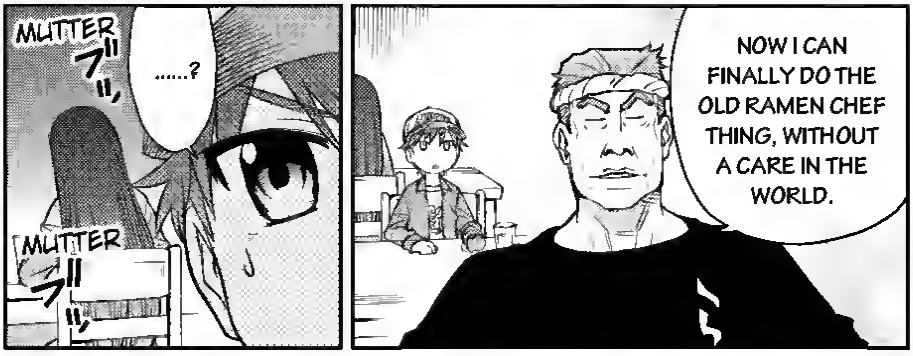
*SIGN: ORIGINAL RAMEN

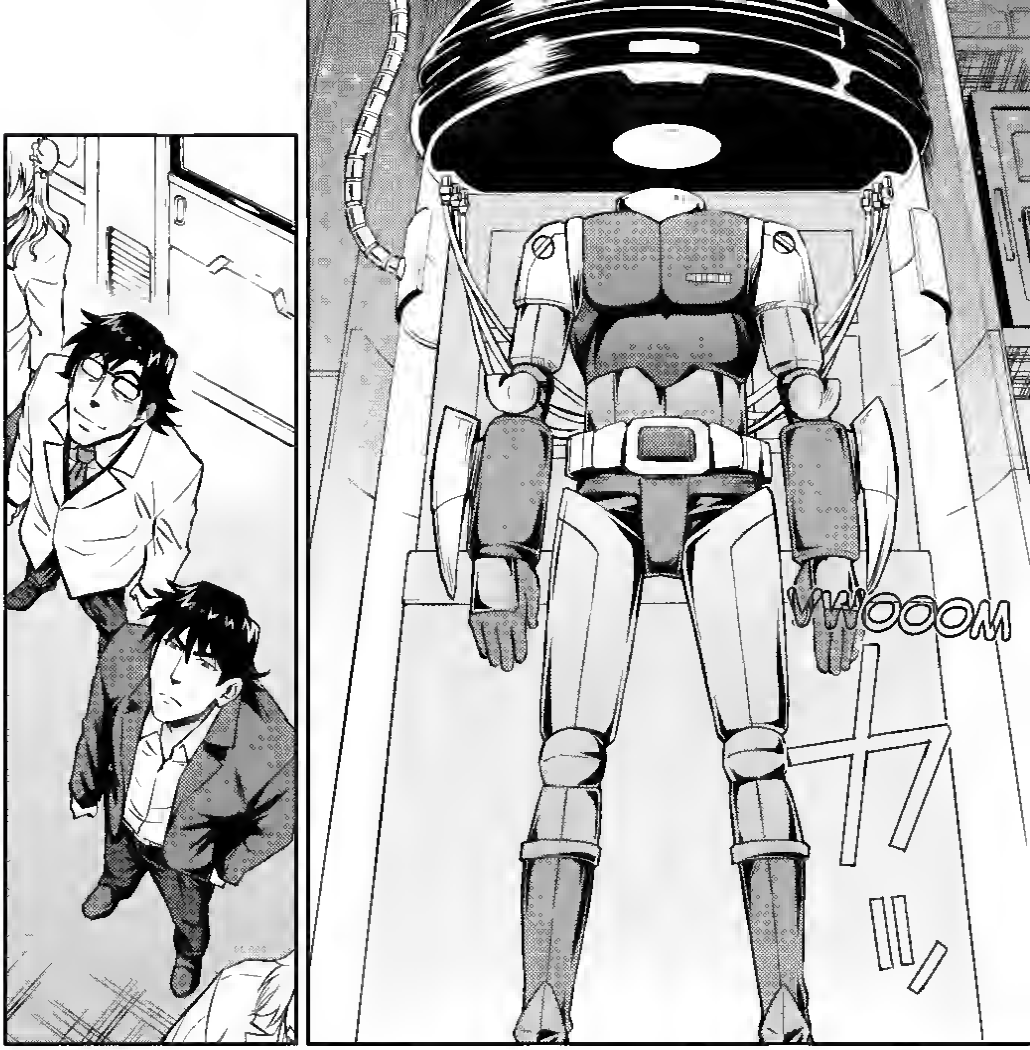
I FIGURED HE'D SHOW UP ABOUT NOW.
IF YOU GOT TIME, WAIT OVER THERE.
HUH? WHERE'S GOU?
HEY, MISATO-CHAN. BROUGHT A FRIEND WITH YOU, EH?
OH.

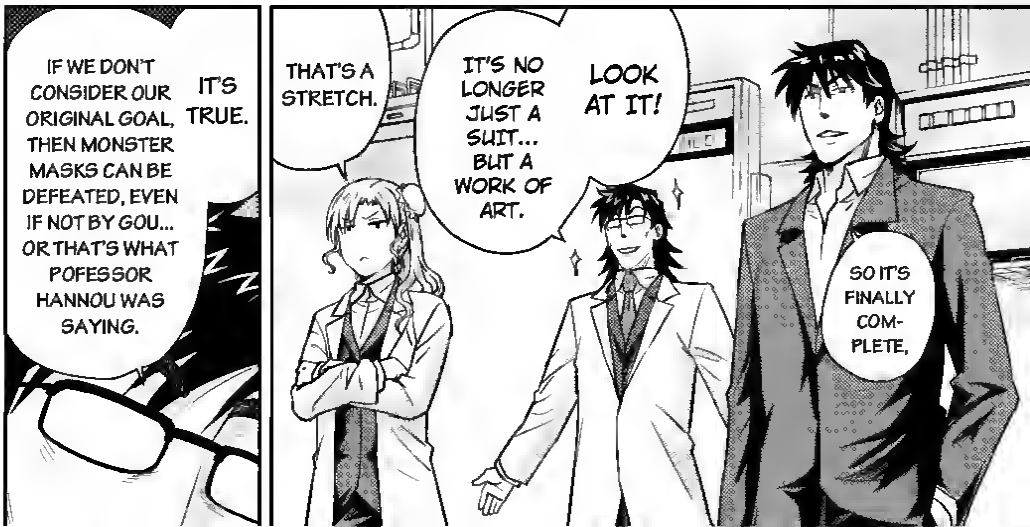
I'M RELIEVED OF DUTY, KID.
MY BIG JOBS ARE OVER.
HEY.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO BE AT ABK?
CLUNK


MUTTER
.....?
MUTTER
NOW I CAN FINALLY DO THE OLD RAMEN CHEF THING, WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.

I HATE IT.
I HATE IT.
I HATE THOSE BASTARDS WHO CAN EAT WITH SUCH RELISH!

IT'S MY GREAT MASTERPIECE!
CHAPTER 15 - MIMIKO'S RESOLVE
ACTION MASK
HIS FIST BREAKS ONLY THE MIND OF HATE.

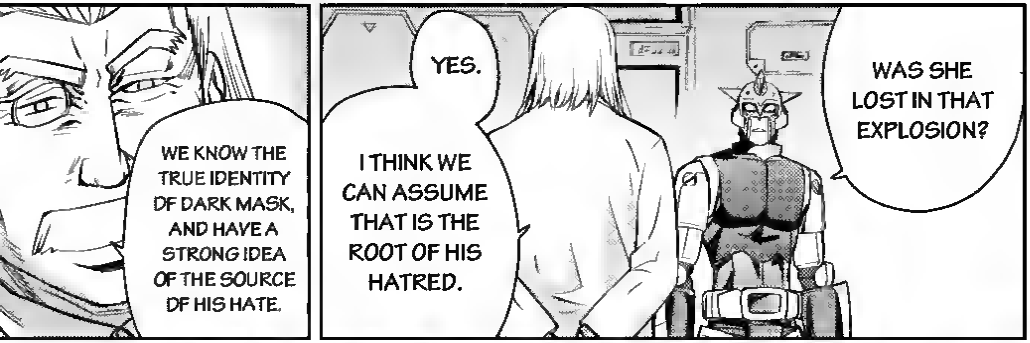

VWOOOM


SO IT'S FINALLY COM-PLETE,
LOOK AT IT!
IT'S NO LONGER JUST A SUIT... BUT A WORK OF ART.
THAT'S A STRETCH.
IT'S TRUE.
IF WE DON'T CONSIDER OUR ORIGINAL GOAL, THEN MONSTER MASKS CAN BE DEFEATED, EVEN IF NOT BY GOU... OR THAT'S WHAT POFESSOR HANNOU WAS SAYING.

YEAH, ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH HAS BEEN CHANGED OR MODIFIED SINCE ITS TEST PHASE.
BEEP
IS IT REALLY THAT STRONG?
SHIIIIIING
ALSO, CHECK OUT THIS SWITCH.
STEP BACK A LITTLE, THEN TRY PRESSING IT.
WHAT'S THIS?
BE-SIDES, IT'S JUST COOL.
GIVEN ITS POTENTIAL USAGE AS WE SAW IN THE LAST FIGHT, WE KINDA LEFT IT ON AS-IS.
SERI-OUSLY, YOU MEN.

BEEP
ピピピ
ヒュー
FWISH
TAK
コ
TAK
コ
KA-CHANG
WHOA... AWE-SOME.
BUT OF COURSE.
THE ARMOR SHOULD ARRIVE IN ABOUT 20 SECONDS FROM ANYWHERE IN A 300-KILOMETER RADIUS.
HMM.

MATSUZAKA-KUN LOST HIS PARENTS WHILE IN COLLEGE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE THEN RAISED HIS LITTLE SISTER, WHO WAS STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL.
YOU CAN SAY SHE'S LIKE A DAUGHTER TO HIM – SHE WAS PROBABLY THE MOST PRECIOUS THING IN THE WORLD TO HIM.


WAS SHE LOST IN THAT EXPLOSION?
YES.
I THINK WE CAN ASSUME THAT IS THE ROOT OF HIS HATRED.
WE KNOW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF DARK MASK, AND HAVE A STRONG IDEA OF THE SOURCE OF HIS HATE.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO FIND HIM...
...AND THEN, GOU...
...YOU WILL PERSUADE HIM TO STAND DOWN, AND EXTRACT THE SEED FROM HIM.

EMERGENCY
BREEEEEP
!
DASH
GOU!
GOT IT!
DOCTOR!
A REPORT FROM PROFESSOR HANNOU OF A MONSTER MASK APPEARING AT HIS RESTAURANT!
D-D-DASH

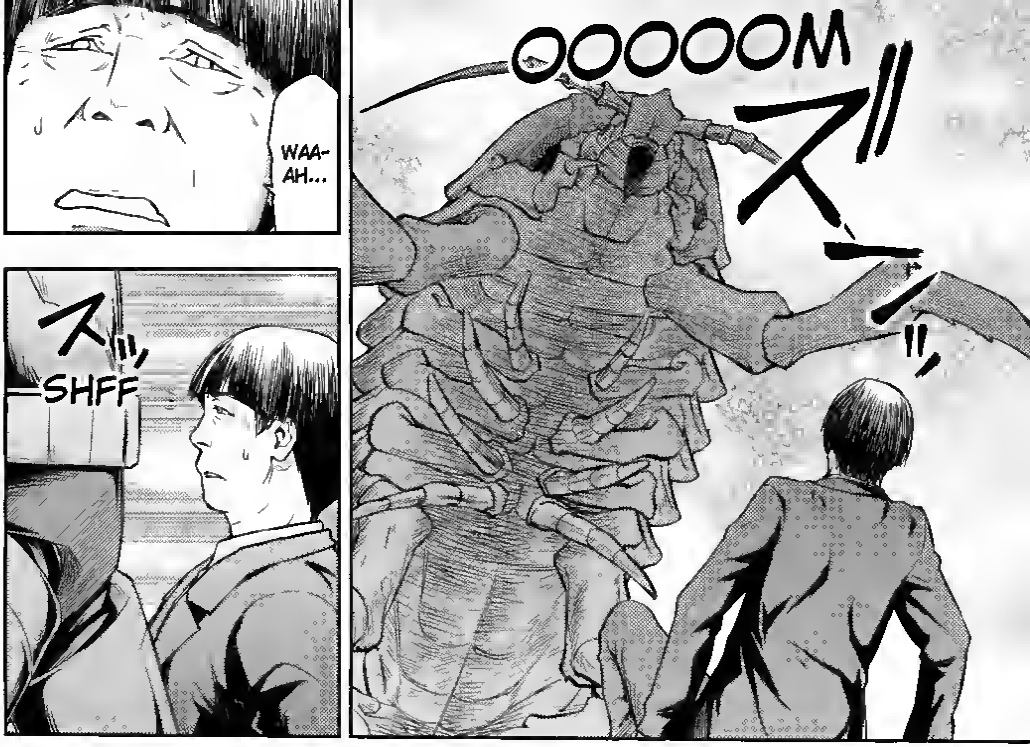
GREAT TIMING FOR IT TO APPEAR.
...ACCORDING TO THE PROFESSOR, IT'S TAKEN THE FORM OF A GIANT ISOPOD.
IT WAS ORIGINALLY A WOMAN.
HE SAYS HE'LL HOLD IT OFF UNTIL GOU ARRIVES.

YOU HEARD THAT, GOU?
YEAH.
AND, WHAT THE HELL'S A GIANT ISOPOD?
YOU KNOW, THOSE... THOSE DEEP-WATER THINGS THAT CAN LIVE FOR YEARS WITHOUT FOOD!
SAVE THAT TALK FOR LATER.

ALL HANDS, PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

GOU.
IF THE MONSTER MASK HAS MADE ITS APPEARANCE, THEN MATSUZAKA-KUN IS NEARBY AS WELL.
WHILE YOU'RE FIGHTING THE MASK, AKB STAFF WILL SEARCH THE SURROUNDING AREAS.
ROGER.
IF YOU FIND HIM, DON'T DO ANYTHING— JUST CALL ME.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MONSTER MASK ASAP.
JUST IN CASE, I HAD ALREADY APPROVED FOR THEM TO CARRY TRANQUILIZER PISTOLS.
JUST IN CASE, OF COURSE.
...HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE MASK HAS APPEARED AT THE PLACE WHERE YOU WORK HAS ME CONCERNED.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO STRIKE FIRST.
YEAH!
GOOD.
HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH INFORMATION WE HAVE ON HAND.

らぁめん
SKRRCH
THIS MAY BE A TRAP.
BE CARE-FUL OUT THERE.
TH-THMP
TH-THMP
WHUMP
WAA-AUGH!
HELP ME!
RATTLE
EEE-EK!
KA-SHAK



**ORIGINAL MONSTER MASK CONTEST GRAND PRIZE. KUROMU-SAN'S "GIANT ISOPOD" MASK APPEARS!!

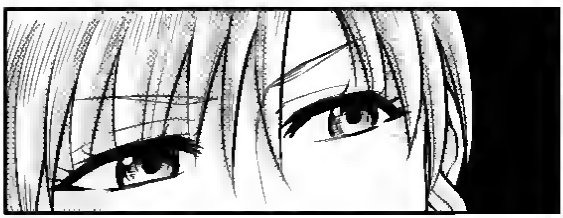
I HATE IT...
I HATE IT...
I HATE THOSE HUMANS WHO EAT AND EAT AND NEVER GET FAT...!
SZZ
SZZ
DASH
DASH
DASH

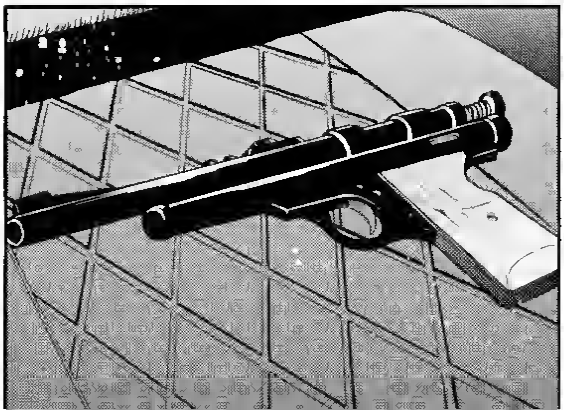
SLAM
SLAM

GLANCE

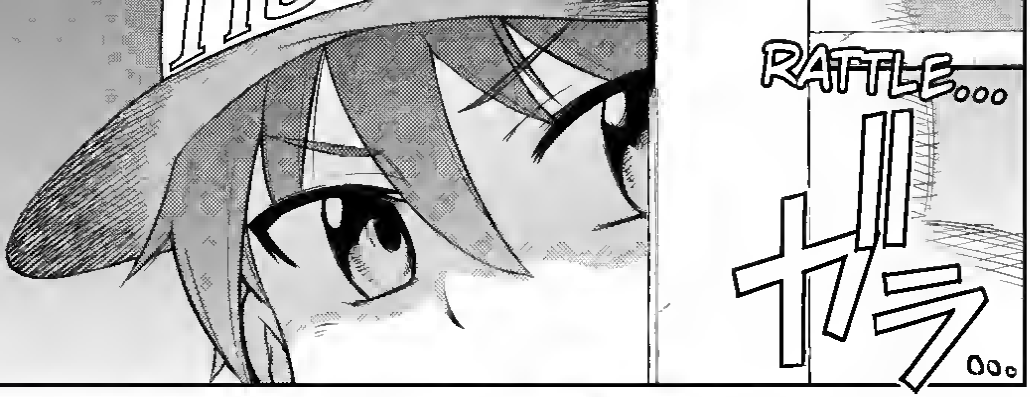
ブロロ…
VROOM…

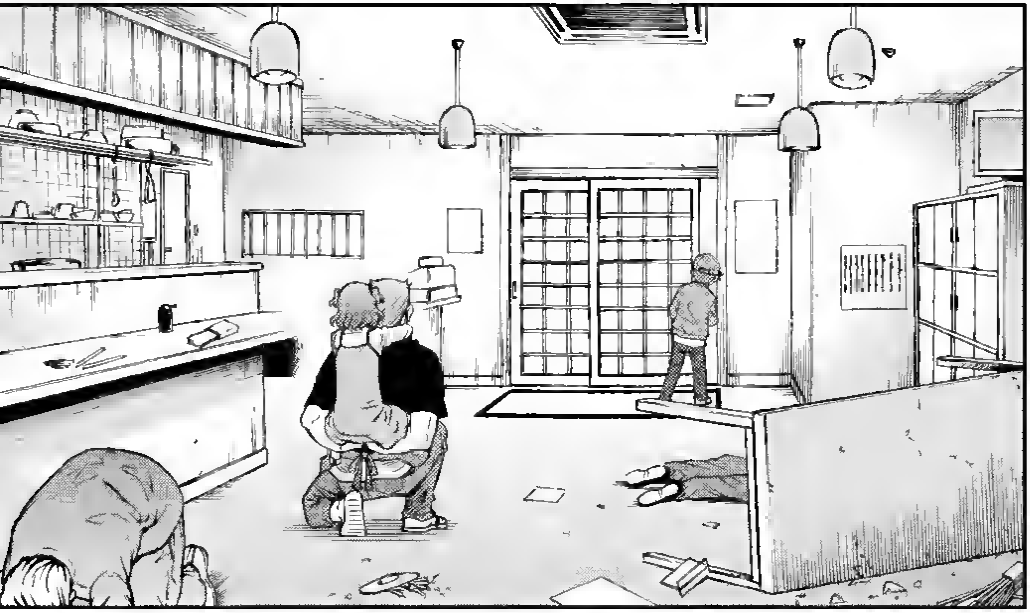
SLAM





TMP

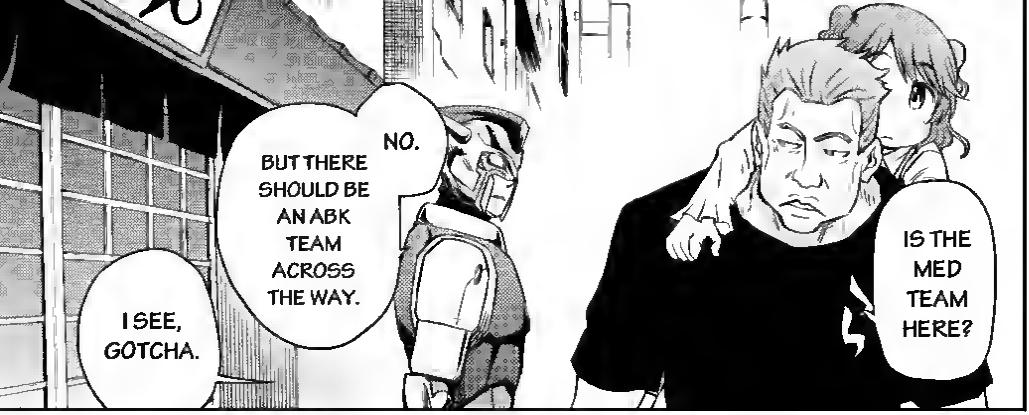

RATTLE...
ガラ
...



OKAY!
HEY BOSS, LOOKS LIKE WE CAN GET OUT NOW.

YEAH, NO NEED TO WORRY.
YOU ALL RIGHT, MISSY?

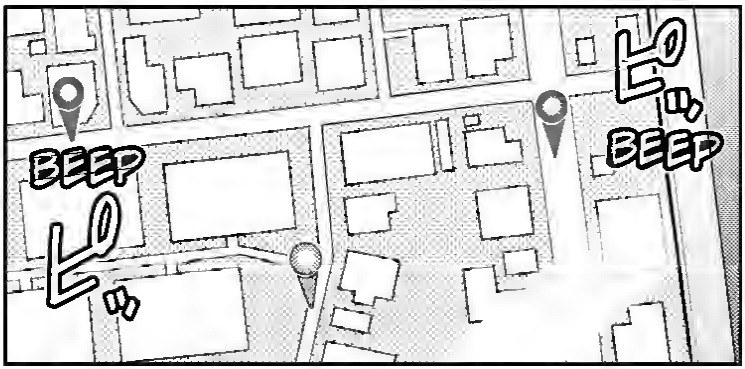
!
SLAM
FWOOSH
RATTLE...
GOU!
CRUMBLE
MISATO?!
CRUMBLE
THEY WERE HERE TO EAT MY RAMEN.
WHY'RE YOU ALL HERE?
めん
I'M FINE!
ARE YOU HURT?!
!

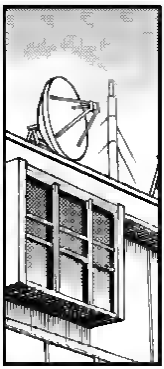

IS THE MED TEAM HERE?
NO.
BUT THERE SHOULD BE AN ABK TEAM ACROSS THE WAY.
I SEE, GOTCHA.

HEY, GOU!
HM? WHAT?

SAVE THAT LADY BUT GOOD!
YOU'RE A HERO, AFTER ALL!
YEAH... LEAVE IT TO ME.
HEHoo...

NNGHAAA!
モガアア…!


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



...ROGER.
CONTINUE THE SEARCH.

...HOW'RE THINGS OVER THERE?

ANY WORD FROM MIMI-KUN?
CAN'T FIND HIM?
NOT YET, SIR.
NO, SIR... WE MAY JUST HAVE TO WAIT.

I'LL TRY CALLING HER.
MIMI-SAN?

I MUST FIND HIM BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DOES!

IT'S A GOOD PROBABILITY THAT HE'LL BE SOMEWHERE HIGH UP.
IF MATSUZAKA'S AROUND, THEN HE'LL BE IN A PLACE WHERE HE CAN WATCH THE FIGHT.

B-BEEP
B-BEEP

MIMI-SAN? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING FROM YOU. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I HAVE NO BARS AROUND HERE.
YEAH..
ARE YOU ALONE?
DON'T MAKE US WORRY LIKE THAT.
NO.
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND HERE.
THINK YOU'LL FIND HIM?

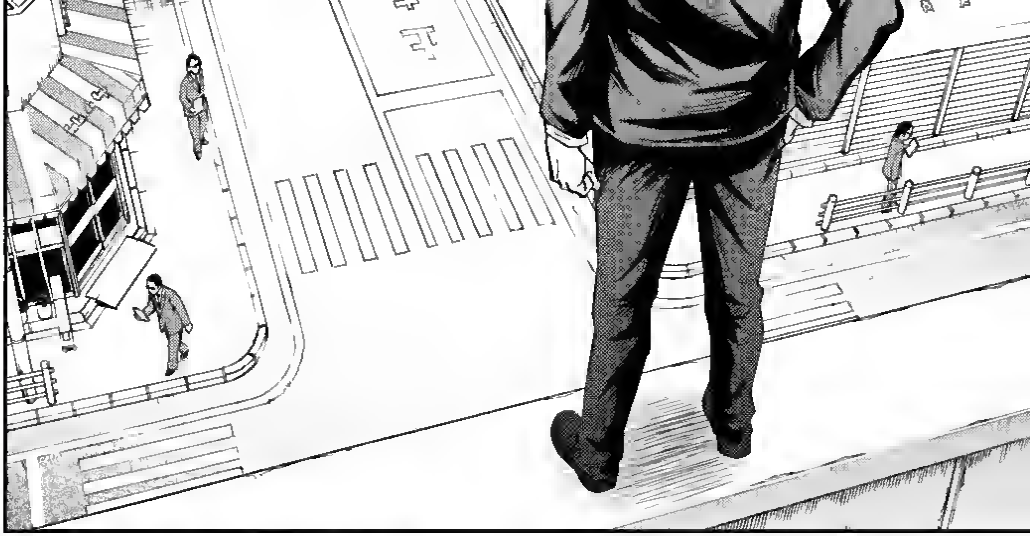
GOU MAY TURN INTO A DARK MASK LIKE MATSUZAKA...!
MATSUZAKA IS FIXATED ON GOU BECAUSE GOU WAS HIS LITTLE SISTER'S BOYFRIEND.
THAT'S WHY GOU IS SURE TO LEARN ABOUT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S DEATH IF THOSE TWO MEET.
I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN.
NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO, I WILL PROTECT GOU...!
MRRAAAH!
GRAARR

ペし
SLAP
SLAP
ペし
SLAP
ペし
MRRGAAH...
モガ!!
ペし
SLAP
HOLD ON!
ARE YOU GIV-ING UP?!
WHY...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I STRIKE...
GOTTA REST...

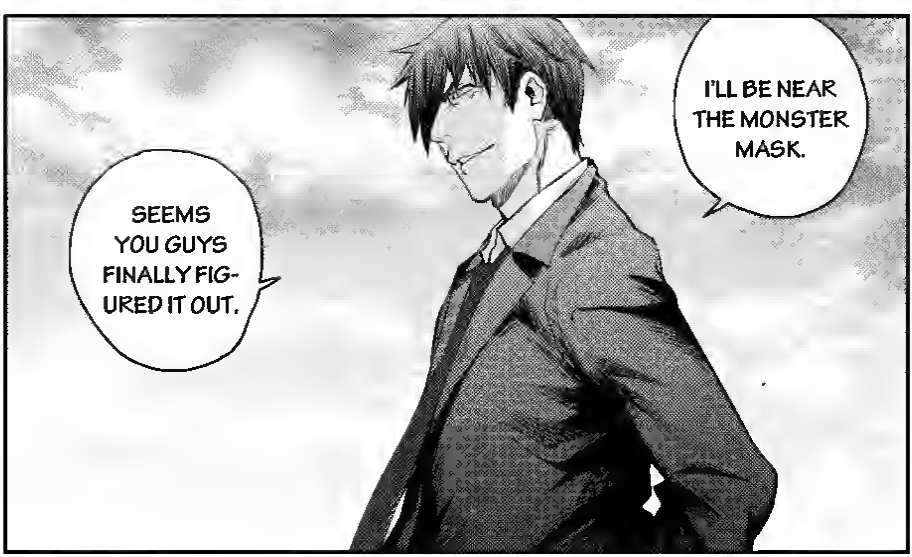
DON'T THINK LIKE THAT!
DO NOT GIVE UP!
BUT I... I CAN'T DO IT ANY-MORE...
I GET IT, NOW!
IT'S THE DETERMINA-TION TO EXERCISE!
WHAT YOU NEED ISN'T THE WILL-POWER NOT TO EAT!
DON'T GIVE UP!!
I TRIED EXER-CISING!
BUT I COULDN'T KEEP IT GOING!

DON'T GIVE UP...
...JUST KEEP GOING!
BUT I...
YOU CAN DO THIS!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I BELIEVE IN YOU!
YOU WERE ABLE TO PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST THIS GUY IN A METAL SUIT, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE A STRONG ONE!

I'M... STRONG...?
THAT'S RIGHT!
NO ONE'S TOLD ME THAT BEFORE...
SHIIINE

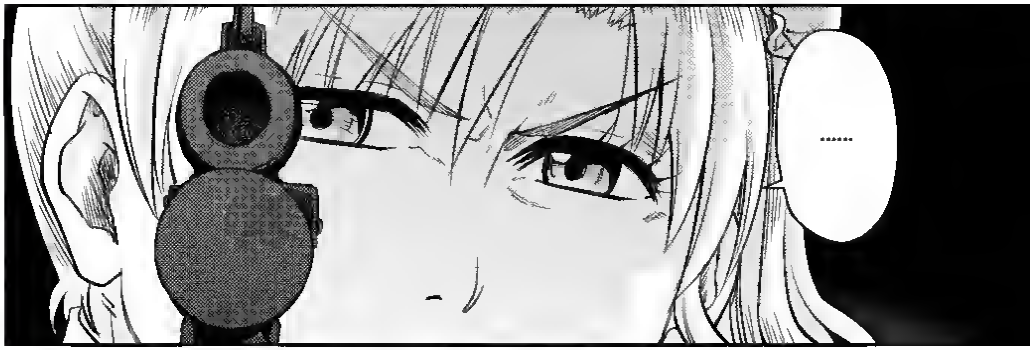


HEH...


I'LL BE NEAR THE MONSTER MASK.
SEEMS YOU GUYS FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.

SNEER
ニヤリ
HEH HEH...
KCHAK...
ガチャ
SEEMS YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE BIT OF KNOWL-EDGE WORK-OUT TOO, EH, ABK?
PUT YOUR HANDS UP, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MATSUZAKA.
OR RATHER... DARK MASK!

BRING ME DOWN WITH THAT LITTLE TOY OF YOURS?
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?


.....

IN-STEAD...
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!

I DON'T THINK IT'D WORK ON YOU, ANYWAY.
BUT SHOWING UP EMPTY-HANDED WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD FOR ME.
チャ〃
CLICK

FLASH
?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
ME?
I'M GOU'S ALLY, THAT'S WHAT!
KA-SHIING

PASHIIING
HMN...?
OKAY, USE THE BEAM, BAL!
GOU...!
EH?

WHAT IN THE...?
YO, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SCREECH
DIDN'T YOU TRANS-PORT SOME-WHERE?!
IT'S NOT US!
MURMUR
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
MURMUR
WHAT NOW?
IT SEEMS THE OLD SUIT'S ACTI-VATED, SIR!
WHOA!!
KA-SHAAANG
I CAME FROM ABK WEARING THE SUIT!
THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAP-PENING!

GOU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YEAH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT I'M WEARING THE SUIT, IN ANY CASE.
I'LL COMPLAIN ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS.
SHFF!!!
LET'S DO THIS, BAL!
ACTION BEAM!
B-B-BEEEEEAAM

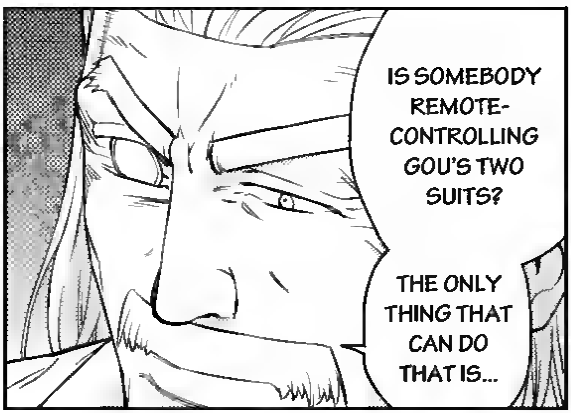
DASH
CLANG
HAH!
CLANG
NRR-RGH!
SLIIIDE
HIS ALLY?!
STOP JOKING AROUND!
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO AP-PROVE OF WHAT GOU'S DOING...
...UNLIKE YOU!
THIS IS NO JOKE!
DID YOU THINK GOU WAS FIGHT-ING ALL ALONE?!
SHOVE!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
AUGH!
TMP
ドタ
CRACK
ガ
THAT'S RIGHT!
WOBBLE...
GOU'S ALWAYS FIGHTING FOR OUR SAKE!
...ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT THAT MAN?
ZSSH
THAT'S WHY I... WHY AKB IS FIGHTING FOR GOU!
DASH

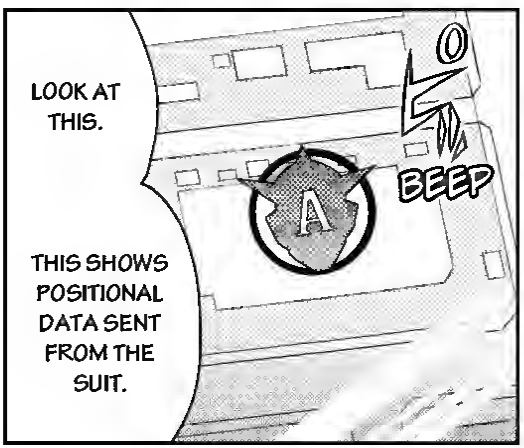
RRGH...
SPAK
"FOR HIS SAKE"...?
GRIP...
WHA?
IF THAT MAN DIES, HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL MOURN?

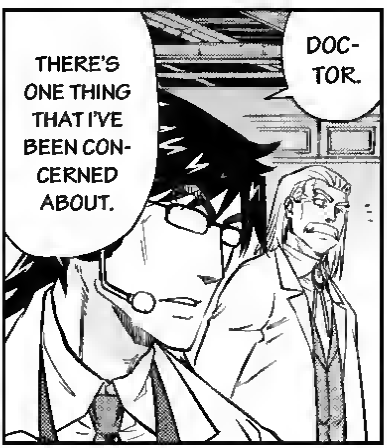
HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WILL GRIEVE OVER HIS DEATH NEVER FOR GETTING THE SORROW?
...I SEE.
I DON'T KNOW... TOO MANY TO COUNT!
AT LEAST ALL OF ABK WILL!
SO THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL GRIEVE OVER HIS DEATH

MURMUR
MURMUR

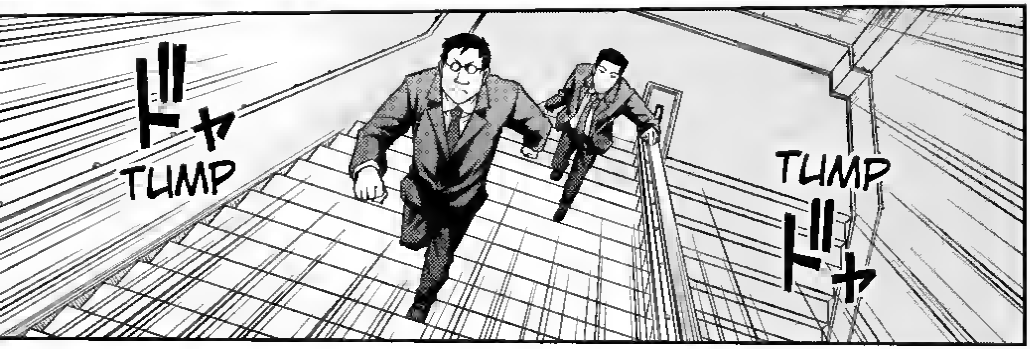

IS SOMEBODY REMOTE-CONTROLLING GOU'S TWO SUITS?
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN DO THAT IS...

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

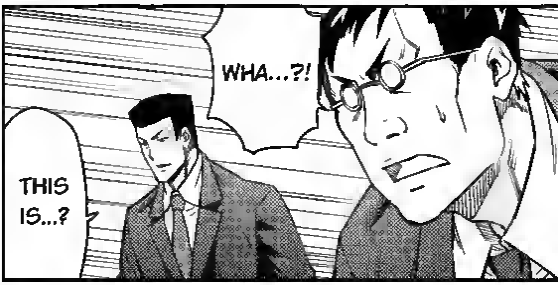

LOOK AT THIS.
BEEP
A
THIS SHOWS POSITIONAL DATA SENT FROM THE SUIT.

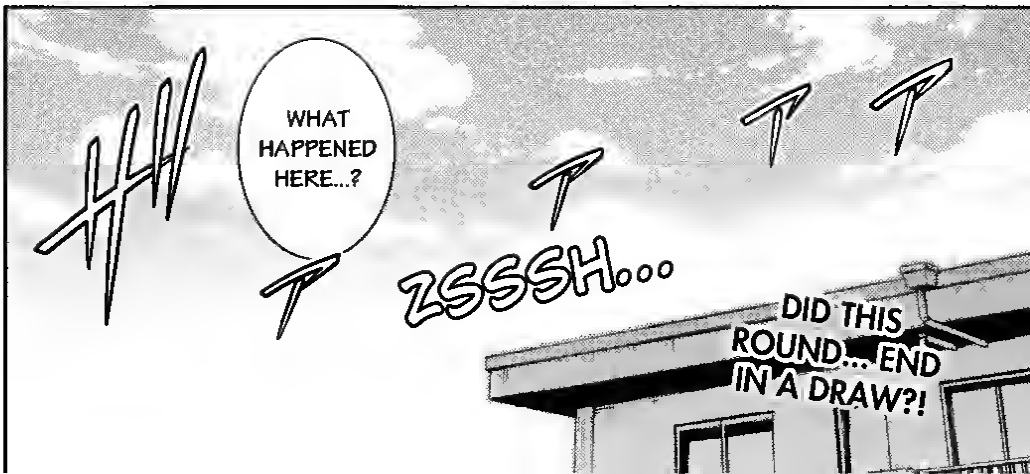

DOC-TOR.
THERE'S ONE THING THAT I'VE BEEN CON-CERNED ABOUT.

ACTUALLY, EVER SINCE THIS SIGNAL, I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH MIMI-SAN.
YEAH.
THIS IS... ZONE 0-X.
...IT CAN'T BE.
DASH
DASH
DASH
HEAD TO THAT POSITION, NOW!
EVERYONE!
LURCH


ドヤ
TUMP
TUMP
ドヤ

WHAM
!


WHA...?!
THIS IS...?


HH
WHAT HAPPENED HERE...?
ZSSSH...
DID THIS ROUND... END IN A DRAW?!